

1 **Amendment to the Claims**

2 **In the Claims:**

3 Please cancel Claims 53-56 and 61.

4 Also, please amend Claims 57 and 62, and add new Claims 88-90, as follows:

5 53. (Currently Canceled)

6 54. (Currently Canceled)

7 55. (Currently Canceled)

8 56. (Currently Canceled)

9 57. (Currently Amended) A method of using synthetic fabric scrap comprising delustered
10 synthetic fibers as a sorbent material for a liquid hydrocarbon, comprising the steps of:

11 (a) shredding said synthetic fabric scrap to produce a mass comprising a plurality
12 of discrete synthetic fibers;

13 (b) bringing said mass into contact with a liquid hydrocarbon;

14 (c) allowing said mass to sorb the liquid hydrocarbon; and

15 (d) mechanically collecting said mass after the hydrocarbon product has been
16 sorbed by the mass.

17 58. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding the mass of synthetic
18 fibers is carried out until said synthetic fibers are processed into a majority of relatively shorter fiber
19 lengths, and a minority of relatively longer fiber lengths.

20 59. (Original) The method of Claim 58, further comprising the step of blending said
21 relatively shorter fiber lengths and said relatively longer fiber lengths together to form a sorbent
22 wadded mass characterized as having a substantial volume of internal interstices, said relatively
23 longer fiber lengths helping to bind said sorbent wadded mass together into a flexible and cohesive
24 mass.

25 60. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of allowing said wadded mass to
26 sorb the liquid hydrocarbon comprises the steps of:

27 (a) allowing said wadded mass to adsorb a portion of said liquid hydrocarbon
28 upon surfaces of the relatively shorter fibers and the relatively longer fibers; and

29 (b) allowing said wadded mass to absorb a portion of said liquid hydrocarbon
30 within said substantial volume of internal interstices.

61. (Currently Canceled)

62. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 57, wherein said delustered fibers
were delustered with titanium dioxide.

63. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding said mass of synthetic
fibers is carried out so as to produce a majority of said synthetic fibers having a length in the range of

1 from about 10 mm to about 20 mm, and a minority of said synthetic fibers having a length in the
2 range of from about 75 mm to about 100 mm.

3 64. (Original) The method of Claim 57, further comprising the steps of segregating synthetic
4 fabric scrap to provide a mass of synthetic fabric scrap comprising substantially more synthetic fiber
5 than natural fiber; and then shredding only said mass of synthetic fabric scrap.

6 65. (Original) The method of Claim 64, wherein the step of segregating synthetic fabric
7 scrap provides a mass of synthetic fabric scrap comprising about 90% synthetic fiber.

8 66. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of
9 controlling a processing rate while shredding the fabric scrap to achieve a desired reduction of fabric
10 scrap into fiber.

11 67. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of
12 reducing an amount of flags present in the fiber being generated to a desired level.

13 68. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of
14 adjusting a height between a table on which the synthetic fabric scrap is disposed and a cutting drum
15 employed to shred the synthetic fabric scrap.

16 69. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of
17 adjusting a height between a table on which the synthetic fabric scrap is disposed and a pinning drum
18 employed to shred the synthetic fabric scrap.

19 70. (Original) The method of Claim 57, further comprising the step of segregating synthetic
20 fabric scrap to remove larger pieces of synthetic fabric scrap, and then shredding only a remaining
21 mass of the synthetic fabric scrap.

22 71. (Original) A method for removing liquid hydrocarbon from a surface contaminated with
the liquid hydrocarbon, comprising the steps of:

- 23 (a) providing a delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent;
- 24 (b) collecting the liquid hydrocarbon by:
 - 25 (i) bringing said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent into contact with
26 the liquid hydrocarbon;
 - 27 (ii) allowing the delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent to adsorb the
28 liquid hydrocarbon from the contaminated surface, adsorbed hydrocarbons accumulating upon a
29 plurality of rough, delustered surfaces of said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent; and
- 30 (c) mechanically removing said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent from the
contaminated surface.

1 72.-87. (Previously Cancelled)

2 Please add new Claims 88-90 as follows:

3 88. (New) A method for making an absorbent comprising a plurality of delustered synthetic
4 fibers, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) obtaining a quantity of synthetic textile scrap comprising delustered synthetic
6 fibers, such that the synthetic fabric scrap comprises less than about ten percent non-synthetic fibers;

7 (b) shredding said synthetic textile scrap to produce a mass of synthetic fibers
8 comprising a mixture of relatively shorter fiber lengths and relatively longer fiber lengths; and

9 (c) substantially eliminating textile scrap and debris that have not been
substantially reduced to fiber to achieve the absorbent.

10 89. (New) The method of Claim 88, further comprising the step of processing the mass of
11 synthetic fibers into at least one of an absorbent pad and an absorbent blanket.

12 90. (New) The method of Claim 89, wherein the step of processing the mass of synthetic
13 fibers into at least one of an absorbent pad and an absorbent blanket comprises the step of needle
14 punching the plurality of synthetic fibers to form the at least one of an absorbent pad and an
15 absorbent blanket.